

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for configuring a first device of a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

~~analyzing at least one message received in the first device from a second device of the communication system in order to determine a particular version of a protocol associated with the second device; and~~

~~storing in a memory associated with the first device an indication of the particular version of the protocol associated with the second device.~~

receiving at least one message in the first device from a second device of the communication system;

determining if a protocol version of the at least one message is the same as a protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device;

determining if the protocol version of the at least one message is a known protocol version when the protocol version of the at least one message is not the same, and updating the protocol version associated with the second device in the memory of the first device when the protocol version of the at least one message is known; and

processing the at least one message at the first device when the protocol version of the at least one message is the same.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first device comprises a switch of the communication system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the second device comprises a customer premises equipment (CPE) device of the communication system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the protocol comprises an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) user-network interface (UNI) protocol.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one message analyzed to determine the particular version of the protocol comprises a signaling channel message received over a signaling channel established between the first and second devices.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the at least one message is analyzed by first~~ the step of determining if a protocol version of the at least one message is the same as a protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device further comprises the step of determining if an information element identifier extracted from the at least one message is a valid information element identifier for a current ~~the~~ protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device, and if the extracted information element identifier is not a valid information identifier for the current protocol version, determining if the extracted information identifier is a valid information identifier for another version of the protocol.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a call processing function of the first device is adjusted so as to provide a feature associated with the particular version of the protocol.

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use in configuring a first device of a communication system, the ~~method~~ apparatus comprising ~~the steps of:~~

a memory;

at least one a processor coupled to the memory, associated with the first device and operative to: analyze at least one message received in the first device from a second device of the communication system in order to determine a particular version of a protocol associated with the second device (i) receive at least one message in the first device from a second device of the communication system; (ii) determine if a protocol version of the at least one message is the same as a protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device; (iii) determine if the protocol version of the at least one message is a known protocol version when the protocol version of the at least one message is not the same, and update the protocol version associated with the second device in the memory of the first device when the protocol version of the

at least one message is known; and (iv) process the at least one message at the first device when the protocol version of the at least one message is the same.

~~a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing an indication of the particular version of the protocol associated with the second device.~~

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the first device comprises a switch of the communication system.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the second device comprises a customer premises equipment (CPE) device of the communication system.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the protocol comprises an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) user-network interface (UNI) protocol.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the at least one message analyzed to determine the particular version of the protocol comprises a signaling channel message received over a signaling channel established between the first and second devices.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein ~~the at least one message is analyzed by first~~ the step of determining if a protocol version of the at least one message is the same as a protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device further comprises the step of determining if an information element identifier extracted from the at least one message is a valid information element identifier for ~~a current~~ the protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device, ~~and if the extracted information element identifier is not a valid information identifier for the current protocol version, determining if the extracted information identifier is a valid information identifier for another version of the protocol.~~

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein a call processing function of the first device is adjusted so as to provide a feature associated with the particular version of the protocol.

15. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium storing one or more programs for configuring a first device of a communication system, wherein the one or more programs when executed by a processor implement the steps of:

~~analyzing at least one message received in the first device from a second device of the communication system in order to determine a particular version of a protocol associated with the second device; and~~

~~storing in a memory associated with the first device an indication of the particular version of the protocol associated with the second device;~~

receiving at least one message in the first device from a second device of the communication system;

determining if a protocol version of the at least one message is the same as a protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device;

determining if the protocol version of the at least one message is a known protocol version when the protocol version of the at least one message is not the same, and updating the protocol version associated with the second device in the memory of the first device when the protocol version of the at least one message is known; and

processing the at least one message at the first device when the protocol version of the at least one message is the same.

16. (Currently amended) A method for configuring a first device of a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

~~analyzing at least one message received in the first device from a second device of the communication system in order to determine a particular version of an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) user-network interface (UNI) protocol associated with the second device; and~~

~~storing in a memory associated with the first device an indication of the particular version of the protocol associated with the second device;~~

~~wherein the at least one message is analyzed by first determining if an information element identifier extracted from the message is a valid information identifier for a current protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device, and if the extracted~~

~~information element identifier is not a valid information identifier for the current protocol version, determining if the extracted information identifier is a valid information identifier for another version of the protocol.~~

receiving at least one message in the first device from a second device of the communication system;

determining if an information element identifier extracted from the at least one message is a valid information element identifier for a protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device;

determining if the extracted information element identifier is a valid information element identifier for another protocol version when the extracted information element identifier is not valid for a protocol version associated with the second device, and updating the protocol version associated with the second device in the memory of the first device when the extracted information element identifier is valid for another protocol version;

processing the message at the first device when the extracted information element identifier is valid for a protocol version associated with the second device.